

AC PAPER NO. 13

A SUPPORTER OF AC HAS WRITTEN THIS PAPER AS FOLLOWS:

“UNFAIR AND UNREASONABLE”

“Little or nothing has been said about the **cost** of changing our Constitution and flag (see AC Paper No. 7 to confirm evidence of republicans’ support for changing it) but without any agreed alternative published design to be put to the people, as is the case with an alternative republican model constitution, yet to be published.”

AC has calculated this at \$2-3 billion – see our Paper No. 10. AC seeks:

1. Republicans’ answer to Question No. 7 on Paper No. 18; and
2. Its fully detailed answers to AC’s \$2-3 billion figure.

So for the purposes of discussion **only**, AC now suggests it is **fair and reasonable** to reduce “2-3 billion” to \$1 billion. To know whether this figure is incorrect, we await the answers from the ALP Government and/or its junior partner, ARM, both openly in favour of changing to “a republic.” So far they have not advised a cost.

Taxpayer Funded Inquiries

AC seeks evidence, in terms of our credo, that a democratic majority of the 18 or more republican factions, see Paper No. 3, are in full (written) agreement with whatever constitution and flag is proposed by those who seek “a republic” and flag change, or do they all, or some, disagree as they are democratically able to do.

Because the 11 or 12 taxpayer-funded or part-funded inquiries on p. 2 have been paid for by the taxpayers, AC states its belief that because of the result of the 1999 Referendum when 55% voted No, that those No voters effectively and unfairly paid for a change they opposed.

Therefore to correct this **unfair and unreasonable** cost to No voters, an adjustment should be made, in the following way:-

AC’s Paper No. 4 lists expressions of support for widespread Civics Education from two Governors-General and seven republicans (strongly supported by AC as per AC’s Credo.) Therefore to compensate for having to pay to support what they democratically opposed, AC submits a **fair and reasonable** method would be to fund the republicans’ universal call for Civics Education and also ACM’s civics education project.

AC would like to be advised of any such government or ARM initiative as it is aware only of ACM’s project. ACM advised it has received no funding whatsoever from our government – only voluntary donations from its supporters. AC restates that ACM’s supporters were effective in gaining a 55% No vote at the 1999 Referendum.

Therefore, since 55% voted No, AC believes it **fair and reasonable** that the government funds all or part of such education, even if only a fraction of the money the government has already funded for the inquiries described below. The government has declined to put a

figure on the cost of the inquiries to date, but even a modest sum of say \$1 million of “seed capital” (to be added to by measuring its beneficial effect if its measured benefit warrants top-up), thus allowing voters then to compare the two and make an **informed decision**. Otherwise the funding of one side only is **unfair and unreasonable**.

NB To date, there have been twelve major votes and inquiries into how to turn Australia into an undefined republic. All have been paid for by the taxpayer, eleven wholly so:-

- Republic Advisory Committee, 1993
- Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill, 1997
- Convention election, 1997
- Constitutional Convention, 1998
- Referendum, 1999
- Corowa Conference, 2001
- Republic (Consultation of the People) Bill, 2001
- Senate Inquiry: Road to a Republic Report, 2004
- Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill, 2008
- 2020 Summit. 2009
- Senate Finance and Public Administration Report, 2009
- Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill, 2010

Doubtless more will follow, paid for substantially (55%) by those who oppose it.